

**REGULAR MEETING
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MARCH 12, 2007 – 4:00 P.M.
TRIBAL OFFICE BOARDROOM**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: Call to Order by Chairperson Laurie Boivin at 4:00 p.m. Roll Call was taken with a quorum present. Members present: Laurie Boivin, Jeremy Weso, Kathy Kaquatosh, JD Shatswell and Mary Wayka. Members absent: Regina Washinawatok and Ben Kaquatosh (excused).

2. Moment of Silence: A moment of silence was observed.

3. Committee Discussion – A) Election of Officers, B) Review of By-laws and C) Set Priorities:

A) Election of Officers:

Jeremy Weso was nominated as Vice-Chairman.

Motion made by Mary Wayka to nominate Jeremy Weso for Vice-Chairman. Second was by Kathy Kaquatosh. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Weso) and 2 absent (Washinawatok and B. Kaquatosh).

Kathy Kaquatosh along with Ben Kaquatosh was nominated for Secretary.

Motion made by Jeremy Weso to nominate Kathy Kaquatosh as Secretary. Second was by Mary Wayka. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 3 for (Weso, Wayka and Boivin) 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 2 absent (Washinawatok and B. Kaquatosh).

* Note: Laurie Boivin needed to break the tie and voted for Kathy Kaquatosh.

B) Review of By-laws:

The following bolded language was the changes that the committee made to the bylaws:

Article III – Members:

1. Members of the Committee shall be appointed by ~~the Tribal Chairperson subject to the approval of the~~ Menominee Tribal Legislature and shall serve at the pleasure of the Legislature.

2. Members of the Committee may be recommended for removal ~~removed~~ by the Committee by a majority vote on the grounds of violation of the standards of committee members, subject to the approval of the Menominee Tribal Legislature.

Article VI – Meetings:

1. The date and time of regular Committee meetings shall be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m. ~~3:30 p.m.~~ or at the call of the Committee Chairman if necessary.

6. All meetings shall be open to Tribal members, except that a meeting, or portion of a meeting may be held in executive session for the purpose listed in Bylaws II Section (1) c © of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Menominee Indian Tribe.

Motion made by Jeremy Weso to approve the bylaws with the recommended changes. Second was by JD Shatswell. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 2 absent (Washinawatok and B. Kaquatosh).

C) Set Priorities:

Motion made by JD Shatswell to table this item until the next meeting. Second was by Mary Wayka. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 2 absent (Washinawatok and B. Kaquatosh).

4. Trust Asset Accounting and Management System (TAAMS):

Chris Caldwell presented the request for discussion purposes. One of the questions was if legal had reviewed the BIA Solicitors opinion. Also, the BIA is mandating the Tribe to convert to this system, however, no funds were provided to set up a system.

The Governmental Affairs Committee has been delegated by the Tribal Legislature to review the Government Plan and get a Forestry Committee operative within thirty (30) days. The newly elected Forestry Committee would be able to assist Mr. Caldwell in deciding if the TAAMS program is something that the Menominee Tribe would want to do.

Motion made by JD Shatswell to have Christopher Caldwell to respond to the BIA request for forestry information and data and to inform the BIA that we have received that request and that the BIA request has been forwarded to our legal department and that the Tribe will respond within the next 60 days. Second was by Kathy Kaquatosh. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 2 absent (Washinawatok and B. Kaquatosh).

5. Tribal Governmental Plan #95-04:

Jeremy Weso handed out an amended draft along with a brief summary detailing and outlining committee objectives and the Forestry Committee has been added to the document as per legislative motion.

There are some concerns about the composition of the Committees.

The Committee will have a special meeting with just this ordinance so that the Committee will have time to review the proposed amendments.

6. Regular Tribal Election Ordinance (#79-20): Review and Recommendations-

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of having a notary signature, a witness signature, posting the names along with the address of individual who applied for an absentee ballot, publishing the requests in tribal news, opening the absentee ballots at the poll closing.

Richie Plass-Election Commissions was present at this meeting to inform the Committee that the Election Commission will be meeting within the next two weeks and will bring the comments generated from this meeting to the Commission for consideration. He will forward their comments to Laurie Boivin to be incorporated into an amendment if necessary.

7. Transfer of Funds owed to Decedent Draft Ordinance-

This item will be under research. The legal department had submitted a memo to the ex-Chairperson to support the passage of this ordinance. Ms. Boivin will locate this memo and review with the legal department to see if this ordinance is necessary.

8. Debt Collection Ordinance # 03-17: Review and recommendations-

This item will be under research. There were several reasons that it needed further review: does the Tribe need to capture the full amount, does it violate Ordinance #79-14 statute of limitations, and was to be under judicial review and the constitutionality of the ordinance.

Ms. Boivin will investigate this item and will bring it back to the Committee.

9. Other Business:

Norbert Sturtevant was present at the meeting to discuss the possibility of an elder abuse ordinance. He was informed that the Health and Family committee are already working on this. Mr. Sturtevant will watch for the next Health and Family committee meeting.

10. Adjournment:

Motion made by Jeremy Weso/Kathy Kaquatosh to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Linda Peters, Recorder
Legislative Staff